

Amendment

09/341,109

**REMARKS**

Claims 138-274 were pending in the application with claims 138-179 rejected for the reasons discussed below and claims 180-274 being withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 138-179 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 138, 139, 142, 143, 147, 148, 151, 153, 154, 156, 163-168, and 176-179 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the terms indicated by the Examiner.

The Examiner did not reject any of the claims as being anticipated or non-obvious in view of prior art. Therefore, it respectfully submitted that claims 138-179 are novel and allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 138-179 is earnestly submitted.

Furthermore, because withdrawn claims 180-274 depend, directly or indirectly, from either claim 138 or 147, the allowance of claims 138 and 147 would also render these claims allowable. Also, claims 138-155 were indicated as being generic claims and allowance of these claims requires a rejoinder of the withdrawn claims. Therefore, early allowance of claims 180-274 is earnestly submitted.

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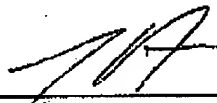
**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 138-179 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 138-179 is earnestly submitted. Furthermore, because withdrawn claims 180-274 depend, directly or indirectly, from either claim 138 or 147, the allowance of claims 138 and 147 would also render these claims allowable. Also, claims 138-155 were indicated as being generic claims and allowance of these claims requires a rejoinder of the withdrawn claims. Therefore, early allowance of claims 180-274 is earnestly submitted.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned agent to set up such conference.

Applicants believe no additional fees are due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2570, under Order No. AP8899 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,



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